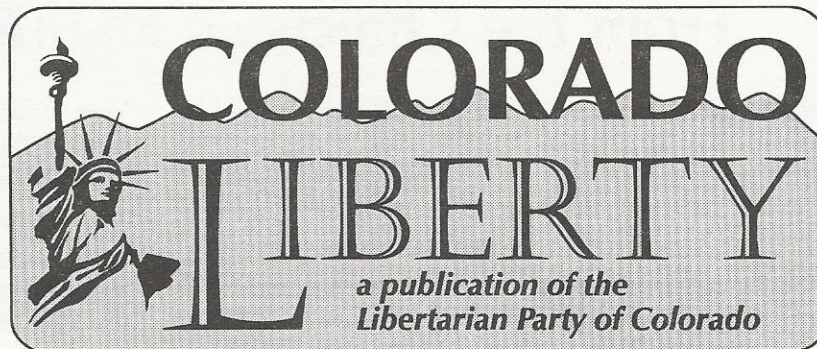


In this issue:

From the Chair	2
Affiliate news	3
Membership growth	5
Random notes	6
Directory and Curio Shop	7
Calendar	8



VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 5

JUNE 1995

Gallegos Finds Controversy on RTD Board

by Ron Bain, *Liberty Editor Emeritus*

Dan Gallegos was elected to the Regional Transportation District Board of Directors without any coverage of his candidacy from the Denver media—nor did any reporters become interested in Gallegos' positions on transportation issues until after he had been sworn in as an RTD board member.

"Once I was in office, a local [Conifer] paper wanted to come interview me," the elected Libertarian said. "After they printed that interview, then the letters to the editor started coming in."

Media reports have characterized Gallegos and several other RTD board members elected in November 1994 as "stealth candidates," and have accused the entire board of violating the Sunshine Laws, which require governmental entities to hold all discussions and make all decisions about the expenditure of public funds in a publicly scheduled meeting.

"We have not violated the Sunshine Laws," Gallegos stated firmly. The press vilified former RTD Board Chairman Brian

Propp, he noted, not for missing meetings, but for being out of town when the RTD board was *not* meeting.

Furthermore, the press gave much play and credence to complaints about alleged RTD violations of the Sunshine Laws from Boulder Mayor Leslie Durgin and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. Yet it is obvious from public records that the Boulder City Council and the Denver City Council routinely discuss issues and make decisions outside of convened public meetings. Gallegos agreed that the press coverage of the Propp/RTD controversy had an obvious agenda other than the truth, legal operations of government bodies, and keeping the public fully informed.

Now that Propp has resigned and the "Sandinista Effect" is abating, RTD is functioning a little less in the public spotlight, which has allowed Gallegos to focus on the issues.

"It goes away—it calms down," he said. "If you pick your fights, it's just not that hard to handle."

see Gallegos Finds Controversy, page 4



District K RTD Director Dan Gallegos and his wife, Beth.
Photo by Doug Anderson.

Come to the LPC Picnic!

by Chris Bogart

The Libertarian Party of Colorado is sponsoring an Independence Day picnic in Boulder's Eben G. Fine Park on Sunday, July 2, 1995, at 2:00 p.m.

We want to celebrate the party's recent progress with all the people who have spent time and energy building it over the years. If you are or were an activist associated with the LP, please come and bring your friends and family.

We'll provide plates, forks, charcoal grills, napkins, etc.—bring your own food and drinks. Sharing or bartering of food will not be regulated, taxed, or prohibited by the state party. You also might want to bring sports equipment—volleyballs, frisbees, whatever.

Any questions? Call Chris Bogart at (303) 449-6327 or Todd Wasserman at (303) 369-6369.

From the Chair:

Now that the Colorado General Assembly has finished its work, we can heave a sigh of relief—as the old saying goes, “No man’s life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.” Of particular interest to citizens is that select group of legislators who almost never met a bill they didn’t like.

In the House, five legislators cast third-reading (final) NO votes less than 5 percent of the time: Bill Kaufman (R-Love-land), Steve Tool (R-Fort Collins), Debbie Allen (R-Aurora), Marcy Morrison (R-Manitou Springs), and Russell George (R-Rifle). The average House member voted NO 11.2 percent of the time.

In the Senate, six legislators cast third-reading NO votes less than 2 percent of the time: James Rizzuto (D-La Junta), Al Meiklejohn (R-Arveda), Elsie Lacy (R-Aurora), Joan Johnson (D-Denver), Dottie Wham (R-Denver), and Don Ament (R-Iliff). The average Senator voted NO 8.6 percent of the time.

We wonder if these folks have any political philosophy at all; or maybe they’re working on the theory that “if it got out of committee, it must be good.” The constituents of these legislators ought to take a closer look at what’s being done in their name.

The legislators casting the highest percentage of NO votes in the House were Eric Prinzler (R-Denver), Phil Pankey (R-Denver), Bill Jerke (R-Lasalle), Penn Pfiffner (R-Lakewood), and Mark Paschall (R-Arveda).

The legislators casting the highest percentage of NO votes in the Senate were Charles Duke (R-Monument), Dorothy Rupert (D-Boulder), Bill Thiebaut (D-Pueblo), and Paul Weissmann (D-Louisville).

David Aitken

Colorado Liberty

A publication of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

David Aitken, Chairman and Publisher

Richard G. Combs, Publications Director and Editor

Subscription is included in party membership. Members by voter registration must notify LPC annually to reaffirm their membership and renew their subscription. Paid subscriptions are \$6 per year. Make checks payable and send all correspondence to:

Libertarian Party of Colorado
720 East 18th Avenue, #309
Denver, Colorado 80203

Editorial Policy: This publication serves as an open forum for libertarian news and commentary. All remarks made in open meetings will be considered “on the record.” We invite submissions (they cannot be returned) of material to the above address. Content decisions are at the sole discretion of the editor and publisher. Opinions expressed in *Colorado Liberty* are not necessarily the official positions of the Libertarian Party.

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From the Editor:

Wow, is there a lot going on! New affiliates are getting organized, ballot access has been eased, membership is climbing rapidly, and now we’ve finally got the voter registration list!

The membership growth Larry cites on page 5 is especially heartening when you consider that the LP traditionally *loses* members during the off-election years. And Presidential election years are when we really grow. So just wait ‘til *next* year!

Wait ‘til next month, too! We’ve got some good stuff we just couldn’t squeeze in this issue, like Scott Williams’ great letter, a neat cartoon, and the Great Lost Platform Planks. Stay tuned!

To the gentleman who wrote regarding libertarianism and the environment: I want to publish your article, but it has disappeared in the avalanche of paperwork that has taken over my office. Could you send us another copy? Thanks!

Richard G. Combs

LP Membership

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This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

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Affiliate News

— New Affiliates Organizing —

Earl Allen is organizing an Adams County affiliate. They've already met once, and will meet again on Monday, July 10 at 7:30 p.m. Call Earl at (303) 254-4978 for details.

In Southwest Colorado, Bill Zimsky is getting a group started. Contact him at (970) 385-5107 or PO Box 3005, Durango, CO 81302.

In the San Luis Valley, Bob Johnson is the man. He's at (719) 379-2707 or HCR 68 Box 51, Fort Garland, CO 81133.

Finally, a free plug for our friends to the north: William Curley is organizing a group in Gillette, Wyoming. He can be reached at (307) 686-6659 or PO Box 3794, Gillette, WY 82717.

— Aspen —

The group is gearing up for the biggest event of the year: the Carbondale Fair, July 28-30. They are also helping the neighboring counties of Garfield and Eagle get a libertarian group off the ground! Call Tom Peckham at (970) 925-6027 to help with either effort.

— Boulder County —

The group cosponsored (with the HEMP Initiative) a showing of Linda Thompson's 2nd Waco video, *Day 51* on the CU campus. The event led to stories in both the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*, and an appearance by Chair Kevin Wilkerson on KTLK's Peter Boyles Show.

The June speaker will be from VOCAL (Victims of Child Abuse Laws). Look for Boulder LP members to be manning booths at the Boulder Creek Festival (May 27-28) and at the Freedom Festival (June 24-25). They are also looking into joining the Boulder Oddfellows and participating in a private charity. Look for about a half dozen candidates for various offices in the 1996 election!

— Denver County —

The Denver group will play a big role in the premier outreach effort of the year, the LPC booth at the People's Fair. The fair, which always draws hundreds of thousands, will be all day Sat-

urday, June 3, and Sunday, June 4. Volunteers are needed to give out LP literature and copies of the US Constitution, sell bumper stickers and T-shirts, administer the Political Quiz, and make friendly conversation with curious fair-goers. Call David Segal (296-4059) or David Bryant (744-6577) to help.

The June 12 Denver meeting will feature *Rocky Mountain News* Associate Editor Clifford May speaking about threats to the First Amendment and media bias. Don't miss this one!

The group's meeting place, Muddy's at 22nd and Champa, is under new management and newly redecorated. It is located just off Park Avenue and Broadway. Take I-25 to Park Avenue and go east past Coors Field, or come north up Broadway. Parking in the lot across the street is free after five.

The meeting takes place in the basement theater of Muddy's at 7 p.m. Chair David Segal urges you to join him for dinner upstairs at 6, but if you're running late, you can bring your food order downstairs and balance it on your lap.

— Routt County —

Libertarians in the Steamboat Springs area are studying Henry Hazlitt's *Economics In One Lesson*. They meet biweekly to discuss the readings. Robert Jahelka is looking for ways to expand the membership.

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Gallegos Finds Controversy, continued from page 1

Gallegos has not yet introduced any resolutions, but voted in favor of continuing the purchase of light rail cars that was approved by the previous board in December. Following that vote, Gallegos began getting flak from Libertarians, just as the media barrage was beginning to subside.

"If it comes right down to it, we can sell 'em and get our money back," Gallegos stated. Even though he wants Denver's light rail program "dead," Gallegos said his biggest problem with government-provided train and bus service in the metropolitan area is that ridership is subsidized.

"I wouldn't mind if the riders paid for it," Gallegos explained. "I don't even mind the government providing the service, because we've already got the government and we've already got the service. But the users should pay for it."

Regional bus routes are the most efficient part of RTD's operations, recovering 40 percent of operating costs from rider fares. But regular city buses recover only 15 percent. The district sales tax accounts for about 67 percent of RTD's operating costs, with federal grants making up the bulk of the remainder.

"To those Libertarians who have criticized me, thanks—but now it's time for you to run."

Bureaucrats and editors upset with the new make-up of the RTD board have suggested that in the future, the board should be appointed and not elected. Gallegos called that idea taxation without representation. Service would improve, he said, if RTD was accountable to its ridership for its funding.

"Riders are a beneficiary of government intervention in my life and my family's lives," Gallegos asserted. "When my son goes to buy a pog, he's subsidizing someone who parks their Lexus at a Park-N-Ride and rides all day for a dollar. The riders should be paying for that service, not me, not my child."

The TABOR Amendment will require RTD to make rebates to the district's citizens if funding limits are exceeded, and that's just what Gallegos wants to do. "Let's find enough revenue to reduce the tax and rebate some funds under TABOR," he enthused. "I hope to find the most equitable way to rebate the money back to the taxpayers, and even reduce the tax."

Die-hard Libertarians may not be happy with all of Gallegos' positions on transportation issues (or with the fact that he works for the U.S. Postal Service), but he notes that few Libertarians have risked the glare of the public spotlight.

"To those Libertarians who have criticized me, thanks—but now it's time for you to run."

Gallegos was reared in a Democratic family in Denver. He joined the Marines and was stationed in Indiana in 1982, when he met Beth, the lady he eventually married in 1985. They moved back to the Denver metropolitan area, had a son, Danny III, and now reside in the Conifer area.

During the Reagan era, Gallegos said, he could be described as a "police-state fascist," but he began listening to Rick Barber and heard things he liked about the libertarian philosophy.

"I'd always been a firearms advocate. I used pot five times in high school. Some of the things Rick was saying started making sense to me. As long as you're not doing anything to me personally, it's none of my business."

Coming from ancestry that includes Indian and European Spanish, Gallegos is an elected Libertarian with an opinion on affirmative action. "I'm against it," he said. "This'll explain why: my dad recently purchased a counter top for his kitchen. We went to the manufacturer here in Denver, and the owner was Hispanic, and most of the employees were Hispanic or black. Now that guy's gonna have to fire minorities in order to hire Caucasians."

Gallegos' father was stern, but not abusive. "The belt was for little boys," Gallegos recalled. "One day he hit me with his hand. I knew that was for adults, and I became an adult that day." Government should not interfere with corporal punishment or split up families, he said. "Men don't have any say until the child is born, then they're financially obligated for 18 years."

On other family issues, Gallegos said he doesn't favor abortion personally, but doesn't approve of the government legislating reproductive rights.

Social Security? "Let's stick to that deal. Let's respect that contract. Let's just not give any *more* people that deal."

The Post Office? "I don't plan on retiring from the federal government. I have investments. If there wasn't so much government intervention, I would probably be able to start my own business. Government has pretty much regulated everybody out of business."



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State & national memberships at all-time highs

LP Membership Growth Accelerating

by Larry Hoffenberg

I'm the LPC's new Membership Director, and this is the first in a series of updates to you, the members. In future updates, I'll be reporting on our progress in dramatically increasing the size and clout of the LP in Colorado. But for now, allow me to preach to the choir for a few paragraphs.

All of us on the Board of Directors are committed to growing the LP into an effective political organization that wins elections—elections for State House and US Congress, not just for RTD or school board. It *will* happen, it's just a question of when.

It's also a question of how long we can afford to wait, literally. Every day, the Feds continue to expand their stranglehold on our money. They spend \$1,000,000 of our money *every five seconds!* They continue to debase the dollar with government-induced inflation. They continue to take from us more than we spend on food, clothing, shelter, and transportation, *combined!* And they will continue to continue, for as long as we let them.

At some point in the future, and no one can predict just when, the electorate will take a line from that great American hero, Popeye, and say "That's all I can stand and I can stand no more." I'm confident that when the time is right, we'll be inundated with new members and will start winning major elections.

As in the fall of the Berlin Wall and the stock market crash of 1987, only a handful of the self-anointed experts will be expecting it. It will just happen. After the fact, of course, the pundits will quickly and cleverly rationalize every aspect of what just happened.

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Americans are clamoring for more choice at the ballot box. Last November's Republican landslide still has the Democrats running for cover. President Clinton's approval ratings are dreadful. (Only Newt Gingrich's are lower.) There is talk of a Democratic primary challenge. There are any number of potential independent candidates for president: Ross Perot, Colin Powell, Pat Buchanan, and Jesse Jackson to name a few. There are unprecedented levels of dissatisfaction and apathy among the voters.

Unprecedented uncertainty breeds unprecedented opportunity. Shortly after the November elections, Speaker Newt, leader of the so-called Republican Revolution, speculated: "If (all) this just degenerates after the historic election...*the American people, I believe, will move to a third party in a massive way.*"

Attention, Speaker Newt: the Libertarian Party has been America's third largest party for at least the past ten years. We're still waiting in the wings, but I believe that our time will soon be at hand. Again, there probably won't be a specific trigger, it'll be like that chaotic flutter of a lone butterfly's wings in the Amazon jungle that results in a hurricane over Miami.

Well, American voters are starting to flap their political wings. Here's what's happening:

- ⇒ Total dues-paying membership in the national Libertarian Party reached 12,500 as of May 5th, an all time high. That's a **52% annualized growth rate** since January 1, 1995. We're well on our way toward reaching the Project Times! Two goal of 20,000.
- ⇒ In Colorado, we just surpassed 400 dues-paying national members, an all-time high. That puts Colorado in ninth place in the state membership rankings and in second place in terms of members per overall population.
- ⇒ National membership in Colorado grew more than 16% in the first four months of 1995, compared to just over 12% for all of 1994!
- ⇒ Our 1,859 registered Libertarian voters in Colorado (as of April 12th) put us at just under one tenth of one percent (0.1%) of voters, a very tiny number, but nevertheless an all-time high.

Keep an eye on your mailbox over the next few months. We'll be bringing you news about our efforts to reach every registered Libertarian in the state and ask them to become dues-paying members in the Party. We're also going to reach a good portion of the unaffiliated voters in this state. A Gallup poll released earlier this year reported that **22% of Americans consider themselves libertarian.** We're going out to find them!

You can help us in our efforts, by promptly renewing your membership. Please check the mailing label on the front of this newsletter. If your membership has already expired or will expire soon, please fill out the form on page 2 and send us your check today. And thanks for your continuing support of the LP.

random notes

LPC Gets List of Registered Voters!

By the time you read this, the LPC will have a complete list of Colorado's registered voters (as of April) on CD-ROM. Getting this list has been a party goal for some time now, and was the focus of an intense fund-raising effort by Fund-raising Director Bette Rose Smith. The campaign raised about \$1500, with which the party intended to buy the list on computer tape (for \$1200) from the Secretary of State's office.

The two major parties get the list regularly for free, and some people wanted the LPC to wage a legal battle for the same treatment. Such a suit would cost at least \$5000, however, with no guarantee of success, so that option was not feasible.

Smith herself found a third, even better, alternative: a private company that would sell us the latest list available for \$150. Not only that, but they put it on CD-ROM, far easier for us to deal with than ten reels of 9-track tape!

The savings mean we can afford to mail to all the registered Libertarians right away (which may not have been possible otherwise), extend *Colorado Liberty* subscriptions to them, and perhaps even begin targeted test mailings to unaffiliated voters. Way to go, Bette Rose!

Ballot Access Reform Passes

HB1022, the ballot access bill, finally passed in the waning moments of the legislative session, and may have been signed by the Governor by the time you read this.

The conference committee version described here last month was rejected by the Senate and sent back to another conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions. The second conference committee settled on a 2 percent signature requirement for all races except president, with caps as follows:

- All statewide - 1000
- Congress, State Board of Education, Board of Regents - 800
- State Senate - 600
- State House - 400
- District Attorney - 650
- County offices - 750

The bill also contains a \$500 filing fee for President and a one week cure period. Attorney General Gale Norton helped by calling Senate Majority Leader Jeff Wells and pointing out that the bill was necessary to resolve outstanding legal issues.

Activists Wanted to Attend Campaign Workshop

Campaigns Director Doug Anderson is still looking for people who want to attend campaign consultant Sal Guzzetta's three-day political campaign seminar. Time is growing short. The seminar takes place in Denver Friday, July 7 through Sunday, July 9. Financial assistance from the LPC may be available for qualified applicants.

Volunteers Wanted

Because of Dan Gallegos' and Dave Bishop's presence on the Regional Transportation District board, we need someone to attend the board meetings on a regular basis and write a short article (300 words max.) about what they did and how they voted. If you can help, call the LPC office or contact Doug Anderson directly at (303)698-2651.

Libertarians Host Charity Fund-raiser

"Washington-based Gays & Lesbians for Individual Liberty (GLIL) held an ACADEMY AWARDS CELEBRATION FOR YOUTH that raised some \$7,000 for a private, nonprofit youth services agency. GLIL President David Morris said 'Too often, libertarians talk about letting charities meet the needs in society, but then they don't support the charities they talk about. We just decided to put our money where our mouths were.' The event was a huge success and generated a great deal of positive publicity for the group." — source: *Unconventional Wisdom*, a quarterly newsletter edited by Gene Cisewski.

Miscellaneous Political Stuff

Joining Harry Browne and Irwin Schiff in the quest for the LP presidential nomination are Doug Ohmen (California), Rick Tompkins (Arizona), and Dick Boddie (California).

US Congress e-mail addresses: schaefer@Hr.house.gov, Skaggs@Hr.house.gov, senator_Brown@Brown.senate.gov.

State Representative Penn Pfiffner, who was chair of the Colorado LP in the early 80's, has been appointed to the Sunrise/Sunset committee, where he and other legislators will decide if various and sundry groups will be regulated.

Kudos to...

David Segal, who continues to make his presence felt in the local media. Shortly after the Right to Bear Arms Rally, KOA's Mike Rosen began lambasting Segal on the air for daring to compare the Oklahoma City bombers with the brave federal employees who acted to restore law 'n order at Ruby Ridge and Mt. Carmel. Segal called in and spent the better part of an hour debating with Rosen, doing a commendable job in a very difficult situation.

Bette Rose Smith for hiring a professional answering service to handle calls to the LPC office. She is contributing the cost for the first six months. This service provides a much more professional image than our old machine, plus they will contact someone immediately when necessary. No more calls from the media that don't get answered for days!

Brian Dawson, who has done political research for Campaigns Director Doug Anderson.

Doug Bruce and David Aitken, who had outstanding letters in the *Denver Post* on the same day. Bruce took Chuck Green to task for his "editorial whimper" about how his freedom to walk the dog isn't threatened. Aitken declared George Bush a Tory and demanded an accounting for Waco and Ruby Ridge.

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El Paso County LP
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PO Box 36000-207, Colo. Springs CO 80936-3600

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- _____ Fight Crime - Shoot Back
- _____ I Don't Dial 911 (w/ hand holding pistol)
- _____ Prohibition Doesn't Eliminate the Product It Only Raises the Price
- _____ Take Guns Away & They'll Use Knives Take Away the Motive and Make a Difference
- _____ Take Guns Away from Rational People and Only Irrational People Will Have Guns
- _____ If You Are Not Part of The Solution, You Are Part of the Problem. Help Restore the Bill of Rights
- _____ Education - Not Legislation
- _____ Life Is Hard. If You're Apathetic, Life Is Harder. Think Before You Vote.

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Calendar of Events

June

- 3 & 4 LPC booth at People's Fair, Denver Civic Center Park, all day both days. One of our major outreach events. Come by!
- 5 & 19 Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m.
Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
- 6 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College, 7 a.m. Speaker. Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.
- 7 LPC Board of Directors meeting, LPC office, 7 p.m.
- 7 & 21 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center.
Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.
- 8 Jeffco LP business meeting. Call Dick Reseigh at (303) 232-3960 for time and location.
- 12 Denver LP, Muddy's, 22nd and Champa, 7 p.m. (dinner at 6)
Speaker: Clifford May, *Rocky Mountain News*. (303) 296-4059.
- 13 Summit County LP. Call John Sabal at (970) 262-6369 for time and location.
- 13 & 27 Routt County LP, Off the Beaten Path Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Steamboat Springs, 7:30 p.m. Robert Jahelka, (970) 879-4127.
- 14 Northeast Colorado LP, Branding Iron Cafe at the Super 8 Motel, I-76 at Exit 125 (Sterling), 7 p.m. Bette Rose at (970) 228-4456 or Trent at (970) 522-0328.
- 18 Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, business meeting at 5 p.m., outreach meeting at 7 p.m. (303) 443-1870.
- 19 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Social, 7 p.m., Mary Margaret Glennie's, 1317 Lakewood Dr. (970) 484-8184.
- 21 Jefferson Forum, Independence Institute, Bldg. 51, Denver West Office Park, 7 p.m. Speaker. (303) 232-3960.
- 22 Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m.
Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.

July

- 3 & 17 Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m.
Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
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- 5 & 19 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center.
Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.
- 10 Denver LP, Muddy's, 22nd and Champa, 7 p.m.
Danger on the Right: a critical look at the latest Linda Thompson video. (303) 296-4059.
- 10 Adams County organizational meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call Earl Allen, (303) 258-4978 for location and details.
- 11 Summit County LP. Call John Sabal at (970) 262-6369 for time and location.
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Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.
- 28-30 Aspen Liberty Coalition booth at Carbondale Fair. Call Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027, to help and have fun at the fair.

Please **mail** any additions or corrections to Calendar of Events, c/o the LPC office. Changes must be received by the 15th for the following month's issue. For instance, the deadline for the July issue, which will list July and August events, is June 15.

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